

Message Text

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SUBJECT:MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OF ISRAEL-U.S. BINATIONAL
INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (BIRD)

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 10049, (B) TEL AVIV 10210

1. PENDING REVIEW AT A MEETING OF THE U.S. BOARD
MEMBERS TO BE HELD DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY,
MR. A. WADE BLACKMAN HAS BEEN RETAINED AS EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR DESIGNATE OF THE ISRAEL-U.S. BINATIONAL
INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (BIRD).
ALTHOUGH INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OF MR. BLACKMAN'S
BACKGROUND DID CONFIRM, TO SOME EXTENT, EXISTENCE OF
ADVERSE OPINIONS ABOUT BLACKMAN (AS SUGGESTED BY REFTTEL
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(A), AT THE DECEMBER 13 MEETING OF MRS. MINK AND DRS.
BERGSTEN AND BARUCH IT WAS DECIDED TO: (1) GET A FIRST-
HAND ASSESSMENT FROM ISRAELI BOARD MEMBER LAVIE AND
HIS PREDECESSOR, YAACOV, OF THE DEPTH OF ISRAELI
RESERVATIONS ABOUT BLACKMAN AND (2) ASSESS HIS REACTION
TO A QUOTE DUTCH UNCLE UNQUOTE TALKING TO. OUR IMPRES-
SION FROM SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELIS SINCE THEN

IS THAT THEY BELIEVE THEY CAN WORK WITH BLACKMAN.
PROF. LAVIE DOES NOT THINK THE QUOTE DAMAGE UNQUOTE

DONE BY MR. BLACKMAN ON HIS OCTOBER VISIT WAS QUOTE
IRREVERSIBLE,UNQUOTE SO LONG AS BLACKMAN MAKES AN EFFORT
TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE AND TO COMMUNICATE WITH ISRAELI
INDUSTRY. PROF. YAACOV HAS SUGGESTED SOME SEMINARS IN
ISRAEL TO ACQUAINT BLACKMAN WITH SOME ISRAELI BUSINESS-
MEN AND TO DEVELOP JOINTLY CRITERIA FOR SCORING PRO-
POSALS. THE DECEMBER 21 QUOTE DUTCH UNCLE UNQUOTE
SESSION, IN WHICH BOARD MEMBERS BARUCH, BERGSTEN AND
LAVIE COUNSELLED BLACKMAN QUITE FRANKLY TO BE MORE
DIPLOMATIC AND SENSITIVE TO ISRAELI VIEWS, IS REPORTED
TO HAVE COME OFF WELL. BLACKMAN LATER SPENT TWO HOURS
WITH LAVIE DISCUSSING FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE GUIDE-
LINES. FINALLY, BLACKMAN APPEARS TO ENJOY THE CONFI-
DENCE OF THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE ISRAEL-U.S. BI-
NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
(BIRD) ADVISORY COUNCIL, A GROUP OF DISTINGUISHED
AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN-SCIENTISTS IN NEW YORK. MORE
COMPLETE REPORTING OF THE SERIES OF MEETINGS IN THE
UNITED STATES RELATED TO ISRAEL-U.S. BINATIONAL INDUS-
TRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (BIRD)
FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL. CHRISTOPHER

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